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October 31, 2001

WRITTEN EX PARTE

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 01-277

Dear Ms. Salas:

Attached is a redacted version of the letter that BellSouth filed with Commissioner David Burgess of the Georgia Public Service Commission on October 26, 2001 and then with the Federal Communications Commission in an ex parte filed on October 26, 2001. We are requesting confidential treatment for that letter subject to the terms of the Protective Order issued in this docket on October 2, 2001.

In accordance with Section 1.1206, I am filing two copies of this notice and the redacted version of the October 26, 2001 letter and request that you place this notice and the redacted version of the letter in the record of the proceeding identified above.

Sincerely,



Kathleen B. Levitz

Attachments

cc: Jessica Rosenworcel
Susan Pié
James Davis-Smith (w/o attachment)
Cynthia Lewis (w/o attachment)

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October 31, 2001

Ms. Cynthia Lewis
U.S. Department of Justice
Antitrust Division
1401 H Street, C.W.
Suite 8000
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Joint Application by BellSouth Corporation, et al. for
Provision of In-Region InterLATA Services in Georgia and
Louisiana, CC Docket No. 01-277

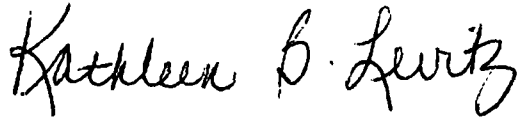
Dear Ms. Lewis:

Luin Fitch of the Antitrust Division's Telecommunications Task Force had requested that BellSouth share with the Task Force a copy of its response to a letter that COVAD had filed with Commissioner Burgess of the Georgia Public Service Commission on September 25, 2001. That letter raised several issues related to the ordering and provisioning of the facilities that COVAD requires to serve its customers, as well as issues related to the BellSouth's performance data collection and reporting systems. On October 26, 2001, BellSouth filed its response to the COVAD letter with Commissioner Burgess and shared a copy with you.

That letter contained information privileged and confidential within the meaning of Exception 4 of the Freedom of Information Act and should be accorded the confidential treatment described in the Department of Justice's letter to David Frolio on April 9, 1998.

Please let Jon Banks or me know if you have questions about the letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen B. Levitz". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Kathleen" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Levitz".

Kathleen B. Levitz

cc: Jessica Rosenworcel
Susan Pié
James Davis-Smith

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October 26, 2001

DELIVERED BY HAND

Commissioner David L. Burgess
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5701

Re: Covad

Dear Commissioner Burgess:

BellSouth was disappointed to receive Covad's letter of September 25, 2001. BellSouth has approached our discussions in a good-faith attempt to address operational and performance measurement issues raised by Covad. However, with the references in its September 25, 2001 letter to such issues as structural separation, BellSouth's 271 application, and the KPMG third-party test, it appears that Covad may have a different agenda. Nevertheless, in a continued effort to maintain a constructive dialogue, BellSouth submits the following response to Covad's latest letter:

Operational Issues

1. Copper Loops in Loop Facilities Assignment and Control System

In framing the issue about access to data concerning copper loops through BellSouth's Loop Facilities Assignment and Control System ("LFACS"), Covad states that it cancels "almost half of Covad's orders in Georgia" because "only fiber serves a particular potential Covad customer and no copper is available to that address," noting that the problem is particularly acute for line sharing orders "of which Covad has had to cancel almost xxx %" These statements are not borne out by BellSouth's records. First, according to BellSouth's records, between April and September 2001, Covad placed xxx line sharing orders region-wide with BellSouth, xxx of which were cancelled (or xxx %). During the same time frame, Covad placed xxx line-sharing orders in Georgia, xxx of which were cancelled (or xxx %). Thus, the number of cancelled Covad orders is considerably less than Covad's September 25, 2001 letter suggests.

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Second, according to BellSouth's records, Covad's orders are being cancelled for reasons other than an alleged lack of copper. BellSouth examined the xxx Covad line-sharing orders that were cancelled in Georgia in August and September 2001. Of those xxx orders, xxx orders were cancelled because Covad incorrectly pre-qualified the loop by ordering a facility that was incompatible with xDSL service (e.g., loaded pairs, DAML on the line, etc.) or failed to provide valid meet point cable, pair, or splitter assignments; xxx orders were cancelled because Covad did not respond to BellSouth's requests for clarification or jeopardy notices that required additional information from Covad; xxx orders were cancelled because they were duplicate orders; xxx orders were cancelled by Covad but were reissued as new orders; and xxx changed to xxx records xxx. For the remaining xxx orders cancelled by Covad, BellSouth cannot determine the reason for the cancellation.

It is a fact that, over the years, BellSouth has pursued an aggressive fiber and digital loop carrier ("DLC") deployment policy, more so than most other incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs"). As a result, approximately 40% of BellSouth's working or assigned loops region-wide are served by DLC, which may explain why there may be more copper pairs "available in other ILEC regions." BellSouth has published a report that is available on its interconnection website which shows, by wire center, the percentage of loops within that wire center that are served by copper facilities versus those served by DLC. However, simply because BellSouth has decided to serve an end user customer with DLC does not preclude Covad or any other CLEC from offering the customer competitive DSL service. Assuming no spare copper facilities are available, Covad always has the option of placing a DSLAM at the remote terminal site and engaging in remote terminal line sharing just as BellSouth does when it provides its DSL service.

This issue is somewhat frustrating for BellSouth because it continues to evolve. In its July 13, 2001 letter to the Commission, Covad did not express any concern about the availability of copper loops after BellSouth deploys fiber for its customers. In our meeting on August 15, 2001, however, Covad asserted a problem with LFACS, alleging that BellSouth "removes" copper loop facilities from LFACS, which denies Covad the ability to locate spare copper facilities on which to provide its DSL service. In its September 25, 2001 letter, Covad appears to have abandoned its allegations about LFACS, suggesting instead that BellSouth has employed "anti-competitive" engineering practices so as to prevent Covad from competing in the DSL market. Covad's latest suggestion is untrue and misunderstands how a local telephone network is engineered.

Covad's most recent letter indicates that its concern about the availability of copper facilities stems from statements allegedly made by BellSouth during a line splitting collaborative meeting that loops that could be used to serve AT&T employees who qualified for the line splitting trial "would soon be moved to fiber and copper would no longer be available." Importantly, the meeting to which Covad refers took place on June 4, 2001, more than a month before Covad first wrote requesting the Commission's assistance in resolving "key operational issues," none of

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which involved the availability of spare copper pairs. Furthermore, at this June 4, 2001 meeting, AT&T provided the names of xxx of its employees who might qualify for the trial, xxx of whom lived in Georgia. Few of these xxx employees qualified for the Georgia trial because they failed to meet the qualification criteria for participation in the trial; namely, that the participant be served from a central office in which Covad had a physical collocation presence and in which Covad had space to install a splitter; that the participant be served by an unloaded copper pair; and that the participant's loop not exceed 15,000 feet in length. Of those candidates who were reviewed, only one involved a situation where spare copper pairs might not be available because of the pending placement of fiber facilities.

Fiber and DLC placements can occur in one of two configurations, either as an overlay to the existing copper facilities or as a replacement for existing copper facilities. For a fiber overlay, the new fiber cable is placed in parallel with the existing copper cable, and both facilities would be shown in LFACS as available at a given address. This is similar to the process apparently employed by SBC, at least as described in Covad's letter. *See* September 25, 2001 Letter at 2 ("When SBC deploys fiber, SBC keeps in place and connected the copper loop network"). When BellSouth employs an overlay situation, both the existing copper pairs and the new DLC pairs would be available for Covad's use.

When fiber is used to replace copper facilities, by contrast, the former copper pairs are no longer shown as available in LFACS because they are no longer physically spliced together, or the cable and terminals may no longer physically exist in the outside plant network. Copper cable may be replaced by fiber for a number of reasons. It may be defective or either impossible or uneconomical to maintain. Or, it may be affected by a pending road move or other rearrangement (e.g., the existing buried cable may be covered by asphalt or the dirt graded, making it impossible to maintain at its existing location). When copper facilities are replaced by fiber, the new terminals and fiber cable counts are built into the LFACS database, and the existing working lines are "cut over" to the new terminals and cable counts. Once all of the lines have been cut over, the existing cable can be physically removed and retired (as would be the case with aerial cable) or it may be retired in place (as would be the case with direct buried cable).

Finally, when DLC is established, the new derived cable pairs may be spliced to existing copper cable (when there are spare complements in the cable) and "energized" into the terminal on the spare facilities. In cases where there are no spare complements or when the copper cable is needed closer to the central office, a "cable throw" is performed. In this scenario, the copper pairs are physically disconnected and reconnected to the new DLC pairs. The copper pairs would no longer show up in the old terminal serving the end user because they are no longer physically spliced into that terminal. The copper pairs may be physically spliced and appear in other terminals, or, if defective, may be physically removed from all terminals. When a cable

complement is not spliced into any terminals at all (for instance, in anticipation of cable retirement), it will still be built into the LFACS database, but would not show up as available at any address.

Covad's request that BellSouth provide "how many times out of the last 50 fiber 'throws' in Georgia that BellSouth has left copper facilities in place and connected" would not be a particularly productive exercise. As previously explained, when a "cable throw" is performed, the copper pairs are physically disconnected and would no longer show up in the old terminal serving the end user. However, in a continued effort to be responsive to Covad's concerns, BellSouth is willing to review a sample of 50 recent engineering jobs that involved the placement of fiber or DLC to determine whether the placements were made as an overlay to the existing copper facilities or as a replacement for existing copper facilities, if the Commission believes such a review is necessary.

BellSouth would like to bring to the Commission's attention two developments that should improve Covad's ability to obtain loop makeup information electronically from BellSouth. First, in August 2001, BellSouth completed a project to update LFACS by uploading loop makeup information from BellSouth's Outside Plant Engineering Design System ("OPEDS") database. Those wire centers with collocation arrangements were prioritized first based upon input from the CLEC community, after which the remaining wire centers in the region were completed. As a result of this project, all of the loop makeup information that could be mechanically generated via OPEDS is accessible through LFACS. Second, BellSouth has implemented a mechanized interface to the OPEDS Corporate Facilities Database. This functionality, which was part of Encore Release 10.0 available on September 29, 2001, allows a request for loop makeup information to be routed first to LFACS; if the information returned from LFACS is incomplete or invalid and the serving wire center is an OPEDS wire center, a request is automatically sent to OPEDS to generate loop makeup information for the incomplete or invalid segments. The loop makeup data obtained from LFACS and OPEDS is combined and returned to the CLEC with a single transaction and without additional input from the CLEC. These recent enhancements are a further reflection of BellSouth's commitment to providing CLECs with adequate information about available loops that CLECs can use to serve their customers.

2. UDC/IDSL-Compatible Loops

At our August 15, 2001 meeting, BellSouth accepted Covad's offer to have its technical personnel assist in identifying and correcting problems with the UDC/IDSL-compatible loop, and Covad agreed to provide the names and telephone numbers of its subject matter experts that BellSouth should contact. Covad's September 25, 2001 letter suggests that BellSouth somehow delayed the process, which is not the case.

On August 27, 2001, Mr. Allen sent BellSouth an e-mail with the names of three Covad employees who would be involved in this provisioning improvement process – Aryeh Barson,

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Steve Giakouminakis, and Mike Savin – although telephone numbers for Messrs. Barson and Savin were not provided. BellSouth subsequently telephoned Mr. Giakouminakis, who did not know either Messrs. Barson or Savin and who was unaware of any initiative between Covad and BellSouth regarding UDC/IDSL-compatible loops. However, Mr. Giakouminakis indicated that he maintained a spreadsheet of the problems Covad had experienced, which he agreed to furnish to BellSouth. On September 21, 2001, a conference call was held with Mr. Allen, Mr. Giakouminakis, Russell Graham, and Keith Futrell of BellSouth, during which it was agreed that the best approach was for Covad to provide BellSouth with Mr. Giakouminakis' spreadsheet, after which BellSouth would determine what issues needed to be addressed and would arrange a joint meeting with appropriate field personnel from BellSouth and Covad. At the time Covad sent its September 25, 2001 letter to you, Covad had still not provided BellSouth with a copy of Mr. Giakouminakis' spreadsheet, which the parties had agreed was a necessary first step.

Despite these initial hurdles, a meeting with BellSouth and Covad subject matter experts was held on October 19, 2001, at which considerable progress was made. The parties discussed new testing procedures that will be employed in the provisioning of UDC/IDSL-compatible loops and reached agreement on other provisioning procedures that should improve performance. A copy of the minutes from this meeting is attached for your review.

Although progress has been made on the provisioning front, the same cannot be said about the approximately xxx ISDN loops ordered by Covad and provisioned by BellSouth that Covad would like to convert to UDC/IDSL-compatible loops. BellSouth developed a comprehensive plan to address Covad's concerns about such a conversion and put forth a good-faith proposal to resolve the issue. In its September 25, 2001 letter, Covad summarily rejected this proposal. In so doing, Covad makes erroneous reference to a complaint filed by Covad against BellSouth with the FCC and cites to BellSouth's disagreement with Mpower concerning the conversion of special access services to unbundled network elements as grounds for the structural separation of BellSouth. Such references are not particularly constructive, and BellSouth regrets that the parties apparently are not going to be able to resolve this issue.

3. Stand Alone xDSL Loops (ADSL, HDSL, UCL)

According to BellSouth's notes, Covad had agreed to provide examples of situations in Georgia when BellSouth allegedly had changed the length of a loop being used to provide service to a Covad customer or had added bridged tap to an existing loop. At our last meeting Covad was unable to provide an example of this problem in Georgia, but agreed to provide such information so that BellSouth could investigate. Covad's September 25, 2001 letter does not address this issue, so BellSouth assumes that it has been resolved.

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4. Line Sharing

Covad expresses continued concern about BellSouth's unwillingness to use the ADSL Sunset test set for Covad's line sharing orders rather than the Line Sharing Verification Transmitter ("LSVT") test set that was developed during the Line Sharing Collaborative. However, Covad has not provided BellSouth with any examples of where use of the Sunset test set would eliminate any of the provisioning problems purportedly experienced by Covad with line sharing. Although Covad's September 25, 2001 letter states that Covad "recently provided BellSouth with xxx examples of line shared orders on which BellSouth said there was 'No Trouble Found' using the LSVT test set, but on which it did acknowledge and remedy a BellSouth problem once BellSouth tested with the Sunset test set," this statement is inaccurate. What Covad provided were xxx telephone numbers on which line-sharing orders had been provisioned and troubles had been reported, although none of the xxx telephone numbers were in Georgia. In reviewing the trouble history for each of these telephone numbers, there is no indication that a Sunset test set was ever used on any of these lines, and in several instances the LSVT test set was successfully used to isolate the problem.

In short, Covad has not done what BellSouth asked Covad to do – namely provide specific examples where use of the Sunset test set would eliminate provisioning problems associated with line sharing that the LSVT test set would not detect. Also, to BellSouth's knowledge, Covad has not provided a description of the additional functionality offered by the Sunset test set that is not available with the LSVT test set, except with respect to the capability of testing Covad's data service, which BellSouth is unwilling to do.

5. Local Exchange Navigation System ("LENS") and Product Documentation

Covad accuses BellSouth of being "inconsistent" in acknowledging an error in the documentation for BellSouth's Unbundled Copper Loop – Nondesignated ("UCL-ND") loop, while insisting that rigorous end-to-end testing is conducted before any new product is rolled out. There is no inconsistency; whenever humans are involved, no matter how rigorous or thorough the end-to-end testing is designed to be, there exists the possibility of human error, which is precisely what happened with the UCL-ND documentation. Furthermore, as BellSouth explained at our August 15, 2001 meeting, the problem with the UCL-ND documentation occurred when BellSouth incorrectly updated the documentation after the UCL-ND product was rolled out. Thus, this particular documentation problem would not have been uncovered during end-to-end testing, since the problem arose in updating the documentation after the end-to-end testing had already been completed.

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Covad continues to allege deficiencies in BellSouth's Operational Support Systems ("OSS"), all of which BellSouth has previously addressed and most of which are not deficiencies at all. For example, contrary to Covad's claims, line-sharing orders placed through LENS are designed to flow through BellSouth's mechanized systems. BellSouth currently has a team, including individuals from Covad's Interconnection Account Team, Covad's Customer Service Manager ("CSM"), and Interconnection Staff Support personnel, monitoring every line sharing order submitted by Covad to ensure both manually and electronically submitted orders process successfully. The team was established to identify gaps with the orders as submitted by Covad or with BellSouth's internal processes.

This team has determined that many of Covad's line-sharing orders contain errors that prevent the orders from flowing through. For example, the team discovered that Covad was routinely submitting line-sharing orders on loops it had supposedly "qualified" but which were actually incompatible with line sharing. In particular, some of loops were loaded cable pairs, others had DAMLs on the line, some had excessive loop length, and some had incompatible services, like Centrex or Ringmaster. An analysis performed in August reflects that Covad incorrectly "qualified" non-qualified loops on xxx % of the line-sharing orders examined. BellSouth has conducted via telephone conference call four additional training sessions for Covad to explain the procedures for properly submitting electronic loop makeup inquiries and for interpreting the responses provided to Covad. In addition, Covad has issued Local Service Requests ("LSRs") with incorrect Billing Account Numbers for the service being requested. BellSouth's electronic systems provide error messages indicating incorrect billing account numbers to alert Covad that it has submitted an incorrect LSR. BellSouth is sending e-mails to the appropriate Covad personnel immediately when BellSouth discovers that Covad has provided an incorrect billing account number (or has failed to qualify properly a loop).

Covad has provided four examples of what Covad claims are "inadequate" documentation for line sharing, which allegedly has resulted in "Covad orders being clarified and delayed for days" The examples provided by Covad actually tell a very different story.

For example, Covad cites to PON xxx (which actually should have been PON xxx), which, according to Covad, "was clarified for wrong 'BellSouth Area,' although ordering documentation does not describe how to fill in that field." This is not true. The "Area" field is documented in the LENS User Guide, posted to the web at http://www.interconnection.bellsouth.com/guides/html/lens_tafi.html. Specifically, this can be found in Section 3.2, step 2 of the User Guide, which includes a specific discussion of the "Area" field and refers to the Appendix C, which contains the correct Area by NPA and Circuit ID Prefix necessary to correctly populate the LENS screen. This problem was not caused by any deficiency in BellSouth's documentation, but was caused by Covad's failure to follow documented procedures.

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Covad also cites to PON xxx, which was clarified in error by a BellSouth service representative for an invalid slot. The Local Carrier Service Center ("LCSC") staff provided an explanation to the service representative, and the order was processed by the LCSC. This was a one-time occurrence and not a system or documentation problem.

With respect to PON xxx, Covad tried to cancel a PON that was in Missed Appointment ("MA") status and received an error message. As discussed in my August 1, 2001 letter, this error message was being received due to an intermittent defect in BellSouth's Service Order Generator that periodically causes LENS to return blanks to the CLEC when it attempts to supplement an xDSL order submitted via LENS that has been placed in MA status. Although BellSouth implemented a short-term fix to this problem, it has resurfaced. BellSouth is implementing a permanent fix to this problem as part of ENCORE Release 10.2, which will be available on November 3, 2001. In the meantime, although Covad may be unable to issue a supplemental order mechanically in certain instances until this permanent fix is in place, Covad can always supplement the order manually as a workaround.

Finally, Covad points to PON xxx as evidence of the difficulties Covad has encountered in submitting orders because of BellSouth's alleged documentation problems. However, BellSouth's investigation determined that the problems associated with this PON all resulted from Covad's failure to follow instructions that were both posted to the web and provided to Covad via e-mail. The first problem Covad experienced with this PON was due to Covad providing an invalid Billing Account Number ("BAN") that also resulted in an error message stating that certain a certain FID should appear with a given USOC. Covad was inputting a REQTYPE AB, ACT "N", LNA "N" order, with an input of "E" in the BAN1 field. Covad should have populated the BAN1 field with the actual "C" account number, xxx instead of "E." Covad had made this mistake on previous orders, and BellSouth provided detailed instructions to Covad in an e-mail on August 10 and also directed Covad to the Guides website (<http://www.interconnection.bellsouth.com/guides/leo/html/gleoo020/index.htm>), where this information is contained in Section 3.2.2 of BellSouth Business Rules OSS99. Covad experienced another problem on this PON on September 14, 2001 when Covad received the error message "ON REQTYPE A (LINE SHARE) REQ WHERE TOS 2ND CHAR=R LEATN FIELD IS TO BE POPULATED WITH THE 10-DIGIT TEL NUM OF THE VOICE SVC THAT LINE SHARING IS BEING PROVISIONED." The error message and the BellSouth Business Rules clearly state that the LEATN is a required field. This information also is contained in Section Sections 3.11.3 and 3.11.4 of the BellSouth Business Rules, which are available at <http://www.interconnection.bellsouth.com/guides/leo/html/gleoo023/indexf.htm>.

These four examples do not support Covad's claim that BellSouth has not conducted thorough, extensive, and successful end-to-end testing of both manual and electronic ordering processes for new products. Nor do these examples indicate a problem with BellSouth's documentation.

Rather, BellSouth believes that these four PONS illustrate the benefits of additional training of Covad personnel, and BellSouth is prepared to discuss with Covad available training options so that Covad can select the option that best suits its needs.

Covad also complains about BellSouth's electronic ordering capabilities. However, neither Covad nor any other CLEC has to date submitted a Change Request through Change Control Process for the mechanization of UDC/IDSL loops. Covad has made a request via the Flow Through Task Force ("FTTF") to mechanize UDC/IDSL loops, and BellSouth has advised Covad that it is considering the request and will provide a targeted release date when one is available. BellSouth has agreed to address this issue through the FTTF.

With respect to electronic ordering of loop conditioning, Sprint submitted a change request on April 27, 2001 requesting that BellSouth mechanize its systems to allow the CLEC to specify Loop Modification (bridged tap or load coil removal) on a loop order (which would include both xDSL and line-sharing orders). Sprint wants the capability to submit the LSR electronically without having to submit a separate Service Inquiry ("SI"). In other words, Sprint asked BellSouth to eliminate its current SI process for Unbundled Loop Modification. BellSouth responded on July 2, 2001, indicating that BellSouth is developing a web-based interface that will allow the CLEC to submit the SI via a web-based platform. BellSouth subsequently rejected Sprint's change request on August 7, 2001. Sprint has appealed the decision to reject the change request, and Sprint's appeal is currently under consideration.

Performance Measurements Issues

BellSouth respectfully disagrees with Covad's accusation that there is a "fundamental flaw" in BellSouth's performance data collection and reporting systems. Although there have been isolated issues associated with the production of Covad's performance reports, these issues have been resolved, and the limited number of "errors" offered by Covad do not reflect any systemic collection or reporting problems in any event.

- As to Covad's "discovery" that, prior to August 2001, Covad-specific line sharing data was provided for the ordering and maintenance and repair measures but not for the provisioning measures, BellSouth advised the Commission of this problem in my letter of September 6, 2001. As BellSouth also advised the Commission, this problem was resolved with August data, and BellSouth has provided Covad with its line sharing provisioning data for August and will continue to do so in future months. Covad does not take issue with the notion that, because Covad is the primary CLEC involved in line sharing, the CLEC-aggregate line sharing data reported by BellSouth provides a reasonably accurate indication of BellSouth's line sharing performance for Covad prior to August 2001.

- As to Covad's claim that "large volumes of its orders were being reported as UNE Other Design," Covad previously stated that BellSouth had reported approximately 2000 orders in this category in June, which BellSouth agreed to investigate. BellSouth has reviewed Covad's performance reports for June, July, and August 2001, and could find no orders reported in the "UNE Other Design" category for ordering or provisioning purposes for these three months.
- As to the reporting structure for Covad-specific performance data for Order Completion Interval with respect to xDSL-capable loops, BellSouth previously expressed its willingness to change that structure to accommodate Covad's concerns. Presumably, this issue will be addressed as part of the technical workshops currently underway in Docket 7892-U, and it is not clear why Covad continues to raise this issue here.
- As to reporting of troubles under Covad's OCN while lines are counted under Covad's ACNA, this process problem was addressed in my August 1, 2001 letter. This issue is limited solely to line sharing orders and is due to the nature of line sharing, which requires that BellSouth track troubles for the voice and data providers separately. However, BellSouth has corrected this process problem and currently all line sharing orders and troubles are being reported under Covad's OCN.
- As to the omission of ISDN data in the Covad-specific performance reports, this again is an issue addressed in my August 1, 2001 letter. As discussed in that letter, BellSouth discovered a coding problem that prevented ISDN loops from being reported correctly in CLEC-specific performance data. This problem was corrected, and ISDN data appeared in Covad's performance reports since June 2001. It is not clear why Covad continues to raise this issue here.

Commissioner David L. Burgess

October 26, 2001

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BellSouth recognizes that deciphering and reconciling the monthly performance reports produced by BellSouth can be a complex undertaking and appreciates the amount of time Covad has taken in trying to understand and interpret its performance data. BellSouth is willing to continue to provide whatever assistance it can to Covad in this regard.

Very truly yours,

Lynn R. Holmes

LRH:nvd

Attachment

cc: Mr. Leon Bowles (via electronic mail)
Mr. Thomas E. Allen (via electronic mail)
Catherine F. Boone, Esquire (via electronic mail)
Bennett L. Ross, Esquire

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